

DAVID P. BOEHM (pro hac vice to be filed)
david.boehm@nlrb.gov
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
Contempt, Compliance and Special Litigation Branch
1015 Half Street, S.E., Floor 4
Washington, D.C. 20003
Telephone: (202) 273-4202
Facsimile: (202) 273-4244

LYNN TA (SB# 279991)
lynn.ta@nrb.gov
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
Region 31
11500 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 600
Los Angeles, California 90064
Telephone: (310) 307-7317
Facsimile: (310) 235-7420

Attorneys for Defendants

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION

Case No. 2:21-cv-01523-UNM-HGW

SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES CORP., Plaintiff,
v.
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD, et al. Defendants.

Defendants' Notice Regarding Plaintiff's Pending Mandamus Petition and Preliminary Injunction Motion

Defendants.

1 On February 15, 2024, the United States District Court for the
2 Southern District of Texas transferred the above-captioned matter to this
3 Court pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a) on the motion of Defendants National
4 Labor Relations Board, *et al.* (collectively, “NLRB”) to transfer venue. *See*
5 Order, *Space Expl. Techs. Corp. v. NLRB*, No. 1:24-cv-00001 (S.D. Tex.
6 Feb. 15, 2024), ECF No. 82. NLRB presents this notice to apprise the
7 Court of developments in the proceedings. After the case was transferred,
8 on February 16, 2024, Plaintiff Space Exploration Technologies Corp.
9 (“SpaceX”) filed an Emergency Petition for Writ of Mandamus in the
10 United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, asking the Fifth
11 Circuit to “immediately request [the] case back from the Central District
12 of California.” Emergency Petition for Writ of Mandamus 1, *In re: Space*
13 *Expl. Techs. Corp.*, No. 24-40103 (5th Cir. Feb. 16, 2024), ECF No. 2-2.

14 Four days after the transfer was completed, on February 19, 2024,
15 the Fifth Circuit issued an administrative stay of the transfer order. *Id.*,
16 Order, ECF No. 28-1. But once venue has been transferred, the
17 originating district court, as well as the appeals court for the circuit in
18 which that court sits, loses jurisdiction over the case. *See Lou v. Belzberg*,
19 834 F.2d 730, 733 (9th Cir. 1987); *In re Red Barn Motors, Inc.*, 794 F.3d
20 481, 484 (5th Cir. 2015); *Ricketts v. Att'y Gen.*, 897 F.3d 491, 494 (3d Cir.
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1 2018); *Jones v. InfoCure Corp.*, 310 F.3d 529, 533 (7th Cir. 2002); *Roofing*
 2 & *Sheet Metal Servs., Inc. v. La Quinta Motor Inns, Inc.*, 689 F.2d 982,
 3 988 n.10 (11th Cir. 1982); *see also* 15 Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R.
 4 Miller, *Federal Practice and Procedure* § 3846 (4th ed. 2023).¹

5 The NLRB has opposed SpaceX’s mandamus petition on several
 6 grounds. But if a writ of mandamus is granted, it would direct the
 7 transferor court to request the case be retransferred to it from the
 8 transferee court. *See Def. Distributed v. Bruck*, 30 F.4th 414, 437 (5th
 9 Cir. 2022). The transferee court, however, is not obliged to honor the
 10 request if it determines that retransfer is not appropriate or warranted.
 11 *Def. Distributed v. Platkin*, 617 F. Supp. 3d 213, 240 (D.N.J. 2022).

12 The NLRB further notes to this Court that SpaceX’s pending
 13 motion for a preliminary injunction, and the NLRB’s opposition to that
 14 motion, are grounded in Fifth Circuit precedent. Applicable Ninth Circuit

15 ¹ The transfer of this case was completed “essentially instantaneously”
 16 when the record was electronically transferred to this Court on February
 17 15. *Home Furnishings Store, Ltd. v. Stiles Mach., Inc.*, No. CIV.A. 11-698,
 18 2011 WL 6329869, at *1 (E.D. La. Dec. 19, 2011); *See, e.g., In re Brand-*
 19 *Name Prescription Drugs Antitrust Litig.*, 264 F.Supp.2d 1372, 1378
 20 (J.P.M.L. 2003) (“From the moment that the files are physically
 21 transferred to the receiving court, the sending court loses all jurisdiction
 22 over the case”); *Wilson v. City of San Jose*, 111 F.3d 688, 693 (9th Cir.
 23 1997) (where clerk failed to file documents after transfer, “this court will
 24 . . . treat documents as filed on the dates that they were tendered to the
 25 court that should have filed them”).

1 precedent did not receive the treatment or emphasis from the parties
2 that this Court might otherwise expect had the case been originally filed
3 in this district. Accordingly, it may be necessary for the parties to submit
4 additional briefing to address the applicable law in this circuit.

6 Finally, the NLRB notes that the underlying unfair-labor-practice
7 hearing, which SpaceX is seeking to enjoin, is set to begin on March 5,
8 2024. SpaceX has requested multiple postponements from various NLRB
9 officials, including the assigned administrative law judge. Should any
10 postponement request be granted, we will promptly advise this Court.

11 Likewise, the NLRB will apprise the Court of any further
12 developments in the Fifth Circuit mandamus proceeding.

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18 DAVID P. BOEHM (pro hac vice to be filed)
19 david.boehm@nrlb.gov
20 NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
21 Contempt, Compliance and Special Litigation
22 Branch
23 1015 Half Street, S.E., Floor 4
24 Washington, D.C. 20003
25 Telephone: (202) 273-4202
26 Facsimile: (202) 273-4244

27 By: s/Lynn Ta
28 LYNN TA
Field Attorney
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD,

1 REGION 31
2 11500 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 600
3 Los Angeles, CA 90064
4 Telephone: (310) 307-7317
5 Facsimile: (310) 235-7420

6 Attorneys for Defendants
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